

### REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated October 3, 2006 in which the Examiner stated that claims 1-7 and 14-22 were allowed, rejected claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and rejected claims 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the priority document filed February 25, 2002.

Attached to this Amendment is a copy of a stamped postcard and an Information Disclosure Statement filed January 20, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledges the Information Disclosure Statement.

As indicated above, claims 8, 10 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 8-13.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

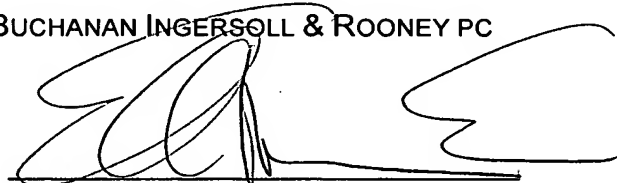
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: January 3, 2007

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